

AN INTIMATE COVENANT

In the book of Hosea there is an astonishing covenant; a proclamation, proposal, and promise of God. It sounds much like a proposal of marriage that I heard as very personal.

He refers to "in that day", which I understand to mean the day when I "know" Him, hear His voice, begin to seek Him, and have a loving relationship with Him.

He says that I will call Him Ishi (husband), and no longer call Him Baali (master or controller). What a difference and pleasure it is to embrace and serve Him as a loving wife, rather than thinking I must submit as though in bondage to a task master.

He goes on to say, "I will betroth you to me forever, yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, in lovingkindness and compassion. I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the Lord." What an auspicious, awe inspiring moment it was for me when I first read these words a few years ago, and even now, as I am writing, are thrilling. I know even more now, that He is as a loving husband. He is among other things, my provider, protector, and promoter. He certainly is not a controller or callous master.

He continues, "I will also have compassion on her who has not obtained compassion, and I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they will say, 'You are my God.'"

Although the book of Hosea is in the old testament writings, this section I am referring to is a prophecy of a new Way. Jesus was the "bringer" of the new way that made it possible for us to have the same spirit as He, thus a new way of seeing things.

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